Save Foggy Bottom...It's Where We Live! Published by the Foggy Bottom Association

# FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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## Transportation Notes

*By Ellie Becker*

With winter still in force but spring approaching, following are some highlights of transportation issues of concern to Foggy Bottom and West End residents.

**Lower West End Study.** A consultant for the D.C. Department of Transportation has completed the Lower West End Study, and a copy will be available at the West End Library sometime soon. At this writing, Ramona Burns, DDOT Ward 2 planner, is compiling the comments of various DDOT officials prior to releasing the study. A public hearing on the study and recommendations will be held at the West End library sometime this spring.

**Theodore Roosevelt Bridge.** More repairs are scheduled for the Roosevelt Bridge, which may cause some delays in the future. In addition, DDOT has advised that the report of the Technical Advisory Committee on the bridge, which contained seven alternatives and includes a draft environmental assessment document, will be delayed. The purpose of the hold is "analyze the potential impact of incorporating contemporary toll collecting systems on the bridge." DDOT stated that "new tolling technologies could help finance the improvements to the bridge without significantly affecting the projected traffic conditions." The analysis will take about three months.

**Turns from Rock Creek Parkway into Kennedy Center.** The Federal Highway Administration recently studied and declined to recommend pre-performance left turns into the Kennedy Center at F Street. The Kennedy Center was consulted, of course, as were the National Park Service and U. S. Park Police. The request to highway officials was made in an attempt to take traffic off Foggy Bottom area streets (Virginia Avenue and 25th Street).

The study found a number of safety and traffic problems with the suggestion. Among them was the fact that the curbs on Rock Creek Parkway are quite high, precluding the possibility of moving stalled or damaged cars out of the roadway until a tow truck can be summoned. FHWA envisioned a line of cars waiting to turn left into the Center and a damaged car in the other lane, causing complete blockage of the road. There were also problems concerned with the traffic flow in and out of the garages.

*For more information or a copy of the FHWA reports, contact Ellie Becker at 202-337-5528; lethebafb@yahoo.com.*

## Residents Speak in Favor of West End Library; 'Listening Session' Scheduled for Tonight

Foggy Bottom and West End residents spoke out in support of their West End neighborhood library at a Feb. 8 meeting of the city's library board held at the branch.

The meeting was part of the board's rotating meetings at different branches around the city, in which it is taking public feedback on libraries in the system.

Those meetings are separate from the "listening sessions" being conducted by a separate, "blue-ribbon" commission set up by Mayor Williams on potential redevelopment of city libraries. Tonight, Feb. 22, the library will host such a "listening session," specifically on the issue of whether some library branches should be developed in "public-private" ventures that would include residential and commercial development.

Virtually all the citizens who spoke at the meeting voiced their backing for the library as a vital and necessary neighborhood landmark.

Richard Price, formerly the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for the West End and former president of the West End Library Friends, a private citizens-support group for the library, told the board the board had undergone extensive renovations from a $150,000 grant it received three years ago as part of the Ritz Carlton / Millennium project near the library.

"It's distressing to me... [and] puts the Friends in an awkward position" that such renovations – which include everything from painting to more substantial heating and air conditioning renovation – could be moot, if the library dismantled as part of any future redevelopment, Price told the board.

He also noted a "bruising" battle two years ago in which local residents beat back an attempt by a nearby parking-lot owner to rezone the entire block, Square 37, on which the library resides, in a 4-0 Zoning Commission decision.

Councilmember Kathy Patterson (D-Ward 3), who chairs the committee with library oversight, said the city is committed to working more closely with the communities with libraries and that any decisions will consider all public input.

That was echoed by library board Chairman John Hill, who said "there has been no discussion of development of this site and certainly no decision."

Local resident Deborah Akel, who lives in the Tiverton apartments on the same block as the library, told the panel she greatly supports and uses the library regularly. "I see this as a liveability issue," she said of any potential further development.

Robert Haas, current president of the West End Library Friends, urged more autonomy for branch librarian Barbara Kupinski, and he and several other residents also spoke for the need of adequate security at the library, to make residents feel safe.

Others told the panel of ensuring basic needs at all branches, on everything from clean bathrooms to updated technology systems including wireless networks. *FBN*

***Reminder – meeting tonight:*** *The "listening session" at the West End library will be held tonight, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m. All concerned neighbors are urged to attend. For more information, see www.dclibrary.org/news/Listening-schedule.pdf.*

## FBA Meeting Monday

The Foggy Bottom Association's general membership meeting will be held next **Monday, Feb. 27, at the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, at 7:30 p.m.** Come a few minutes early and say hello to your neighbors!

**All Foggy Bottom and West End residents welcome.**

**Speaker: Councilmember Jim Graham (D – Ward One)**

Visit www.savefoggybottom.com for updates.

## 'Brewmaster's Castle' Seeking Contributions

The old Heurich Mansion, located a few blocks north of Foggy Bottom / West End at 20th St. and New Hampshire Ave., is a "Victorian Gem" inside and out - and is in danger of being sold. It was built by Christian Heurich, whose Heurich Brewing Company's headquarters was on the land now occupied by the Kennedy Center.

A group of friends and preservationists, called Friends of the Castle (www.brewmastercastle.com), are seeking contributions to a fund to save the building, which has been a museum, and earlier housed the offices of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. *FBN*

## St. Mary's Tour Enlightening

The FBA-sponsored tour of historic St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 23rd Street on Sat., Feb. 11, was a success, drawing about 20 interested neighbors, despite the rain, cold and looming snow.

Greeted by cups of coffee and pastries, the participants then gathered in the parish hall in front of a large aerial photo of Foggy Bottom taken in 1883 from the just-finished Washington Monument. Bradford Tatum pointed out unpaved Virginia and Constitution Aves., and other structures which disappeared long ago.

St. Mary's originally was in another location and was moved to 23rd Street after a gift of the land from a Mrs. Catharine Pearson, who was related to the columnist Drew Pearson. Prior to the building of the church, services and a large Sunday school for children were held in what is now the church's offices and parish hall. The Foggy Bottom and Georgetown areas at that time were largely black neighborhoods, and the fledgling church soon prospered.

St. Mary's is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and now that it is open again, additional tours are planned by the vestry. Mrs. Tatum joined her husband in pointing out some of the features of the church, and the group was shown one of the Della Robbia Stations of the Cross which will be put back in place in the church before Easter.

*– Ellie Becker*

*The FBA is tentatively scheduling two other tours: a tour of the State Department's public rooms, slated for March, and a backstage tour of the Kennedy Center, in April. Marie Karl of Trammell Crow Co. is also working on getting residents a tour of the Columbia Condominiums building later this year.*

**THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS**

**c/o West End Library**

**24th & L Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20037**

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The Foggy Bottom News is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the FBN reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

***FBA Officers:***

PRESIDENT – Joy Howell • VICE PRESIDENT – Barbara Spillinger
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius • TREASURER – Russell Conlan
MEMBERSHIP – Edward B. Gable Jr.

***FBA Board of Directors:***

Ellie Becker, Joseph G. Chaplick, Elizabeth B. Elliott, Jacqueline G. Lemire, Michael G. Malloy, James R. O'Leary, Ronald Cocome (Immediate Past President; *Ex Officio*)

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# Use that FBA Membership Card!

Foggy Bottom Association members receive a variety of discounts from local area merchants simply by showing our membership card! Here's a list – and stay tuned for our "Preferred Merchants Program," coming in 2006! The membership card also allows FBA members use of GWU's Gelman Library.

## FBA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

**Chateau Florist**
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 293-9005
*10% off any arrangement of at least $25*

**Danny Diaz, Ltd. (Men's Clothing)**
522 23rd St., NW
Tel: 296-2767
*20% off merchandise; 10% off men's and women's alterations*

**Elenco Salon**
504 23rd St., NW
Tel: 293-3006
*$5 discount on any hair service*

**Expressions (Fine Clothing)**
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 775-9299
*15% discount*

**Grillfish Restaurant**
1200 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 331-7310 • Fax: 331-3751
*10% off food purchases*
*(does not apply to alcohol)*

**Marshall's Bar & Grille**
2524 L St., NW
Tel: 333-1155 • Fax: 333-4664
*10% off; does not apply to any other discounts*

**Metropolitan Optical**
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 659-6555 • Fax: 659-2134
*15% off any eyewear purchase; not applicable with other offers or on contact lenses*

**New Hampshire Valet**
600 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 342-5700
*10% off dry cleaning, laundry, shoe repair*

**One Fish Two Fish**
2423 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 882-0977
*10% off total meal bill for dine-in and carry-out only; not available on delivery orders*

**Primi Piatti**
2013 Eye St., NW
Tel: 223-3600 • Fax: 296-3725
*10% off check*

**ProEuro Hair Design**
2100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 887-9191
*10% off haircut and style; 20% off color highlights or perm*

**600 Restaurant at the Watergate**
600 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 337-5890 • Fax: 337-5895
*10% discount after 8:00 p.m.*
*(does not apply to bar service or alcohol)*

**Shohreh Day Spa**
1712 Eye St., NW, Ste. 914
Tel: 452-9300
*20% off services on first visit; 10% on subsequent visits.*

**Sizzling Express Columbia Plaza**
538 23rd St., NW
Tel: 659-1234 • Fax: 659-2800
*10% off hot foods, salads, sandwiches and fountain sodas*
*(does not apply to sushi)*

**Thai Coast Restaurant**
2514 L St., NW
Tel: 333-2460 • Fax: 333-2462
*10% discount on food in restaurant (does not apply to alcohol)*

**Watch & Band Clinic**
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 785-4552 • Fax: 785-4552
*15% off leather watch bands*

**Watergate Gallery & Frame Design**
2552 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 338-4488 • Fax: 338-4451
*10% off custom framing*

**Watergate Photo & Copy**
2560 Virginia Ave., NW
Tel: 333-7700 • Fax: 333-3083
*10% discount*

**Watergate Valet**
2546 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 337-7570
*10% discount on dry cleaning and laundry*

**Watergate Wine and Beverage**
2544 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 333-0636 • Fax: 965-2416
*Wine: 10% off per case • Liquor or Water: 5% off per case*

**Williams The Tailor**
825 21st St., NW
Tel: 822-8000
*10% off general alteration and repair*

**The Wine Specialist**
2115 M St., NW
Tel: 833-0707 • Fax: 833-9507
*10% off on all non-sale items (includes single bottle / cases of wine, liquor, beer, water, soda, etc.); not valid with other sales and promotions*

SAVE THE DATES!

**2006 FBA General Membership Meetings:**

February 27
March 27
April 24
May 22
June 26 – Annual meeting
*Speakers TBA*

**All meetings at Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, at 7:30 pm.**